

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 SCI-06 FEA-02 AEC-11 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2468

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E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, IN, IS

SUBJECT: INDIAN NUCLEAR TESTING

REF:STATE 104647

1. WHILE GOI HAS NOT ISSUED OFFICIAL REACTION TO INDIA'S NUCLEAR TEST, EDITORIALS TODAY NOTE CERTAIN DANGERS. ONE EDITORIALIST (DAVAR) BELIEVES INDIA NUCLEAR TEST IS DEATH BLOW TO NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY, WHICH, HE NOTES, INDIA HAS NOT SIGNED. TO SAY THAT INDIA IS SIXTH MEMBER OF ATOMIC CLUB IS FOOLISH, BUT CLUB IS NOW WIDE OPEN AND OTHERS WILL TRY TO FORCE ENTRY, IF ONLY FOR PRESTIGE. MIDDLE EAST SITUATION, ACCORDING TO DAVAR, MAKES INDIA'S STEP PARTICULARLY IRRESPONSIBLE. MRS GANDHI'S PROTESTATIONS OF PEACEFUL INTENTIONS DESCRIBED AS SHEER HYPOCRISY. INDIA'S ACT MAY SET OTHER COUNTRIES ON ROAD TO CONSTRUCTION OF MASS DESTRUCTION WEAPONS.

2. HAARETZ EDITORIAL BELIEVES INDIA'S NUCLEAR TEST HAS UPSET ATOMIC BALANCE IN TWO WAYS: POSSIBILITY OF USE OF NUCLEAR ARMS BY INDIA OR SUB-CONTINENT WILL HAVE REPERCUSSIONS THROUGHOUT ASIA, AND NEW CATEGORY HAS BEEN INSERTED BETWEEN FIVE POWERS POSSESSING NUCLEAR ARMS AND HALF-DOZEN COUNTRIES TECHNICALLY ABLE TO EXPLODE DEVICE BUT WHICH HAVE NOT YET DONE SO. HAARETZ

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WARNS TEMPTATION TO CLIMB FROM THIRD TO SECOND-CLASS WILL BE

CONSIDERABLE

3. IN VIEW LACK OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH INDIA, WE BELIEVE ISRAEL WILL TAKE NO SPECIFIC MEASURE TO CONVEY DISPLEASURE.

4. ISRAEL'S NUCLEAR INTENTIONS WILL BE PRIMARILY GUIDED BY ITS CONCEPT OF ITS SECURITY WITHIN FRAME WORK OF MIDDLE EAST RELATIONS AND ONLY marginally INFLUENCED, IF AT ALL, BY INDIA'S TEST. INDIA'S TEST HOWEVER MAY STRENGTHEN ISRAELI REFUSAL TO SIGN NPT.

5. ISRAEL CERTAINLY WILL WATCH WORLD REACTION AND ESPECIALLY THAT OF US TO INDIA TEST. IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT AT SOME FUTURE DATE ISRAEL MIGHT CONSIDER HINTING AT OR ANNOUNCING ACHIEVEMENT OF NUCLEAR CAPABILITY IN ORDER TO GAIN PSYCHOLOGICAL POLITICO-MILITARY ADVANTAGES IN CONTEXT MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO REASON TO EXPECT ISRAEL TO DO SO. IN THIS CASE, ISRAELI DECISION MIGHT BE INFLUENCED TO SOME EXTENT BY KINDS OF REACTION THAT INDIA'S MOVE WILL GENERATE.
KEATING

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